

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 15 are presented for consideration, with Claim 15 being independent. Independent Claim 15 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art.

Initially, Claims 4-6 were objected to because of a minor informality. In response, Claims 4-6 have been amended to recite an electrophoresis display apparatus and are now consistent with Claim 15. Accordingly, this objection is deemed to be overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ikeda '896. In addition, Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Ikeda '896 in view of Ikeda '521. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 of Applicants' invention relates to an electrophoresis display apparatus comprised of a first substrate and a second substrate arranged with a predetermined gap in between, an insulating liquid and a plurality of charged particles enclosed in a gap between the substrates, and first and second electrodes. As claimed, the first electrode is placed along a first substrate over a relatively wide area of a pixel, and the second electrode has a voltage applied therebetween and the first electrode. The electrophoresis display apparatus carries out a display by applying a voltage to these electrodes and moving the charged particles. As amended, the first electrode includes a strip-shaped portion which borders the second electrode, and the second

electrode and the strip-shaped portion of the first electrode are colored in the same color as the charged particles.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a high performance electrophoresis display apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Ikeda '896 relates to an electrophoretic display device that includes first and second substrates 3, 6, and first and second electrodes 8, 9, disposed at horizontally deviated positions in the first substrate 3. Particles 2 are carried within an insulating liquid 1 provided between the substrates.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Ikeda '896 does not teach or suggest, among other features, a first electrode having a strip-shaped portion which borders the second electrode, with the second electrode and the strip-shaped portion being the same color as the charged particles. In this regard, the Office Action asserts that Ikeda '896 includes a first portion of the first electrode being colored in substantially the same color as the charged particles, i.e., black. With reference to Figure 1A, the "first portion" is described in the Office Action as being the portion under the second electrode 9 and is said to border the second electrode.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that no such "first portion" of the first electrode 8 in Ikeda '896 exists. The Office Action relies on column 5, lines 11-30 in Ikeda '896 to support the assertion that the "first portion" of the first electrode is colored in substantially the same color as the charged particles. This portion of Ikeda '896, however, provides no support for

this assertion. To the contrary, Ikeda '896 discloses that the first electrode 8 is colored in white, and the electrophoretic particles and second electrode 9 are colored in black so as to provide a monochromatic display (column 5, lines 11-15). There is no teaching or suggestion, however, of providing the first electrode 8 with a portion that is the same color as the charged particles.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Ikeda '521 also relates to an electrophoretic display device, and is relied on for its teaching of providing a second electrode on a support member. Ikeda '521 fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Ikeda '896 as discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 15 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 4-6 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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